



Local grade 4 student wins \$5,000 for Habitat as runner-up in national youth writing contest

A celebration assembly was held at St. Catherine Catholic Elementary School on April 3rd announcing local winners of the 11th annual **Genworth Canada Meaning of Home** contest in support of Habitat for Humanity. Over 7,000 grade 4, 5 and 6 students' from coast to coast submitted entries expressing what home means to them. The Meaning of Home contest helped raise \$170,000 for Habitat for Humanity in Canada!

Genworth Canada and Habitat for Humanity Peterborough & Kawartha Region are proud to recognize the achievements of two local students from St. Catherine Catholic Elementary School who have been selected as winners for the national writing contest.

Keira Finn (grade 4) was one of 11 runners-up in this national writing contest. As a runner-up, Keira has chosen **to direct a grant of \$5,000 to Habitat for Humanity Peterborough & Kawartha Region**, making a difference in her community by helping build more homes for families in need of safe and affordable housing.

Ethan Fletcher, also in grade 4, was selected as a semi-finalist for his poem entitled 'Home'.

Keira and Ethan's entries can be found online at

<https://meaningofhome.ca/winners-2017/>



As well, \$10 was donated to Habitat for Humanity for each entry from a student in this community, raising an additional \$4,790. The donation will help Habitat for Humanity Peterborough & Kawartha Region provide future Habitat homeowners with stable and affordable housing. Habitat is currently building a semi-detached project on Wolfe Street in Peterborough with plans to begin four new projects this spring: two homes in Curve Lake First Nation and two homes in Lindsay.

"This is a tremendous achievement for local students", said Emily Ferguson, Manager of Philanthropy & Communications at Habitat for Humanity. "We are excited to celebrate winners, Keira and Ethan along with every student who participated. We are also extremely grateful for teachers who see the value in this initiative and encourage their students to get involved year after year."

Habitat for Humanity Canada's model of affordable homeownership helps families in need of housing buy their own home. Habitat homeowners volunteer up to 500 hours and pay an affordable mortgage to own their home, helping them build a strong foundation and the financial stability to help plan for their children's futures.

Since the Meaning of Home contest launched in 2007, the national contest has received more than 50,000 essays from elementary school students. The contest has helped to direct more than \$1,000,000 to Habitat for Humanity Canada and local Habitats in every province and territory. This year, the grand prize winner of the Meaning of Home contest is nine-year-old Ryan Mota, from Winnipeg, Manitoba and chose Habitat for Humanity Manitoba as the beneficiary of his \$50,000 grant.